



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
CMC-MMSR

MAR 02 2006

WHITE LETTER NO. 04-06

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: All General Officers  
All Commanding Officers  
All Officers-in-Charge

Subj: MARINE CORPS RETIREES

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 5420.169H  
(b) NAVMC 2925

1. Reflecting back to 1996, the 31st Commandant acknowledged the importance of our retired Marines and the role they play as an integral part of our Total Force. Our retired community has made, and will continue to make, tremendous contributions to our Country and Corps. Over 300 retired Marines have been recalled to active duty since the beginning of the Global War On Terrorism; over 100 currently serve on active duty today, many of them deployed to Iraq. With special or unique skills, these Marines return to active duty to help our Corps remain a true "force in readiness."

2. As we witness retired Marines function as part of our total force, it is vital that we support the number one link to our retired community: the Retired Activities Office Program (RAOP). The RAOP provides a vital resource, connecting these Marines and all retirees with essential programs, benefits, and entitlements as outlined in the references. With ever-increasing legislative changes affecting myriad retiree programs, the RAOP is the pivotal support link.

3. Current and future success of the RAOP depends largely on the active component's involvement. For installation commanders, I charge you to review your program and, if warranted, breathe new life into it. For all commanders, I stress teamwork and, in that vein, ask that you provide any support possible to the installation RAOP.

4. Per the references, Retired Activities Offices are capable of answering most inquiries as well as providing detailed and accurate information to the local retired community. However, if external support is needed, the Retired Activities Section in the Separation and Retirement Branch at HQMC remains the subject matter expert and stands ready to assist with any retired issue.

  
M. W. Hagee

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